



Sitka Hiking Guide

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Sitka National Historical Park

Easy

[1 hr | 1.5 mi/2.4 km round trip | Elev. gain: 20 ft/6 m]

This area Commemorates the site of the Battle of Sitka between the Tlingit Indians and the Russians in 1804. Traditional and historic totem poles line the trails throughout the park. In the late summer and early fall, visitors can view the salmon spawning along the Indian River portion of this trail.
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Sitka's Cross Trail

Easy

[1-2.5 hrs | 3.8 mi/6 km one way | Elev. gain: 200 ft/61 m]

This is a wide, accessible, gravel-paved trail perfect for year-round walking and biking. There are multiple access points throughout the trail, connecting it with local neighborhoods and visitor destinations.
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Starrigavan Estuary Life Trail

Easy

[3 hrs | 2 mi/3.2 km round trip | Elev. gain: 150 ft/46 m]

This is an ADA accessible boardwalk trail with a bird viewing platform and picturesque view of Upper Starrigavan Valley. This trail connects to the gravel-paved Ben Grussendorf Forest and Muskeg Trails and is close to the entrance of the Mosquito Cove Trail.

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Welcome to our backyard.

Our island home has all the amenities and services you'll need for your next adventure. From equipment and gear rentals to local tips, Sitka has you covered.

- Transportation services, Land and Water Taxis
- Shopping for retail, equipment, and gear
- Bike and kayak rentals
- Guided walking and hiking tours
- Fishing outfitters, information, and rental equipment



Visit our website for more info: visitsitka.org

Resources

Sitka is ready for you to explore. Whether you want a challenging hike or a leisurely stroll, our resources can put you on the right path.

Sitka Trail Works

sitkatrailworks.org

TRAIL INFORMATION
SUMMER HIKES & EVENTS
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The Sitka Cycling Club

sitkacycling.wordpress.com

Plan for the elements. Plan for safety.

Many hikes on the island offer an array of backcountry experiences. Be sure when planning your trip to align your goals with your experience level and prepare for all types of weather. If conditions worsen, don't be afraid to cut your adventure short and head back to town—it still makes for a good story.

Adventure-seekers in Sitka are encouraged to carry basic survival gear, navigational aids, and an emergency communication device. Those venturing out are also recommended to submit their trip plans and emergency contact information to the volunteer Search and Rescue team by visiting the **Sitka Fire Department** which is notated on the map as . Trip leaders can also borrow a Marine VHF-radio from the Fire Department for the extent of their trip.

Sitka Fire Department | (907) 747-3233

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Indian River Trail

Easy

[6 hrs | 9 mi/14.5 km round trip | Elev. gain: 1,000 ft/305 m]

This trail offers a relaxing walk through the Northwest Coast rainforest, highlighting views of the Three Sisters Mountains. Rushing waterfalls, located at the end of the trail, complete this gradual ascent.
- 1

Mosquito Cove Trail

Moderate

[1 hr | 1.5 mi/2.4 km round trip | Elev. gain: 281 ft/25 m]

The Mosquito Cove Trail is made up of gravel-paved pathways and wooden stairs. This loop follows the beach and forest fringe along Mosquito Cove before curving back through the forested hillside.
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Thimbleberry Lake/Heart Lake Trail

Moderate

[2 hrs | 3.2 mi/5 km round trip | Elev. gain: 281 ft/25 m]

With parking available at both ends of this trail, hikers can choose their favorite route to both Thimbleberry and Heart Lake.
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Herring Cove / Beaver Lake Trail Loop

Moderate

[2 hrs | 3.4 mi/5.5 km round trip | Elev. gain: 520 ft/159 m]

This popular loop trail skirts Beaver Lake and is nestled among rugged mountains and muskeg ecosystems. The beginning and end of this trail are steep, but the hike is worth it as docks, picnic pads, and fishing platforms are ready for use at Beaver Lake.

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Mount Verstovia Trail

Difficult

[6 hrs | 5 mi/8 km round trip | Elev. gain: 3300 ft/1005 m]

This comes with a steep, challenging, and rugged hike with rewarding views of Sitka, Sitka Sound, and Mount Edgecumbe on clear days. The trail from Picnic Rock to Arrowhead Point is unmaintained, so visitors are urged to climb with caution.

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7 Gavan Hill Trail/Harbor Mountain Trail

Difficult

[4-6 hrs | 12 mi/19.3 km round trip | Elev. gain: 3,300 ft/1,005 m]

A great choice for a half-day, full-day, or overnight hike, this strenuous climb offers breathtaking sights of the surrounding mountains and islands. The Harbor-Gavan Hill Shelter is available for hikers on a first-come, first-served basis.

OFF-MAP TRAILS

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Fort Rousseau Causeway State Historical Site

Easy

[2-3 hrs | 3 mi/4.8 km round trip]

This unique park is only accessible by water. Visitors can take a short kayak or boat ride to discover Sitka's WWII history.
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Kruzof Island

[With something for everyone, this island offers multiple levels.]

Mount Edgecumbe/Sea Lion Cove/Kruzoff Multiuse Logging Roads, Water Taxi

What to Bring

While exploring Sitka's trails, remember to stay safe outdoors and pack these 11 Essentials!

1. **Navigation** - include a printed map to supplement any digital map
2. **Hydration** – always bring more than you think you need
3. **Nutrition** – bring high protein snacks for energy
4. **Rain gear and insulation** – always bring layers for the ever-changing weather
5. **Firestarter** – bring a lighter or waterproof matches
6. **First aid kit**
7. **Knife**
8. **Illumination** – flashlights are a good supplement for cell phone lights
9. **Sun protection** – even on gray days, the sun's rays can be strong
10. **Shelter** – bring a travel tent or tarp for shelter just in case
11. **Bear spray**

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Goddard Hot Springs

Easy

[Popular among area residents, Goddard Hot Springs is rich with history. This must-see destination is one of Alaska's oldest mineral springs.]

Water Taxi

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Medvejie Lake Trail

Moderate

[2 hrs | 1.5 mi/2.4 km round trip | Elev. gain: 519 ft]

Set between sheer mountainsides, an unmarked trailhead begins the rugged trek from Medvejie Hatchery to a crystal clear lake.
- 3.25 Green Lake Rd.

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Salmon/Redoubt Lakes Trail

Moderate

[2-4 hrs | 3.5 mi/5.6 km to cabin | 5.8 mi/9.3 km to Redoubt Lake | Elev. gain: Minimal]

Known for its fishing and bear sightings, this area offers hikes, lake access, and a cabin for visitors. There is good fishing at Salmon Lake. Bears are common in the area.
- Water Taxi

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Lake Eva Trail

Moderate

[2 hrs | 3.5 mi/5.6 km round trip to lake | Elev. gain: 106 ft]

Accessed by water taxi, the scenic hike to Lake Eva begins at Hanus Bay. This partially maintained and often muddy path leads to a cabin and a fish-filled lake. There is an accessible slough for those with limited mobility.
- Water Taxi

Hiking Checklist

Enjoy your hike and help others enjoy theirs too by keeping these key points in mind.

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors
- Keep dogs on leash and pick up their poop

VISIT Sitka



SITKA HIKING GUIDE

BEAR AWARE



Carry bear spray. Know how to use it. Be alert. Make noise. Hike in groups. Don't run.

Sitka is located on Baranof Island where the brown bear population is about one bear per 1.5 square miles. Bear activity is highest between spring and fall, but bears are present year-round. While trekking through bear country, remember the following:

- Share your hiking plans with someone else.
- Make noise to announce your presence.
- Hike in groups, and keep dogs on leashes.
- Carry bear spray in an accessible area and know how to use it beforehand.
- Stay alert and approach blind corners with caution.
- Pack it in. Pack it out. Throw trash away in bear-resistant dumpsters.

If you encounter a bear, DO NOT RUN. Back away slowly while facing the bear. Make noise and try to look large. Use bear spray if necessary.

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

